

REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-30 were pending. Claims 1-30 stand rejected. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 7, 17, and 22 have been amended. Claims 1-30 remain pending.

Claims 1-18, 20-22, 24-27, 29, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by An (U.S. Pat. No. 4,538,789). Claims 19 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over An in view of Ito et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,047,951). Claim 23 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over An in view of Sasaki et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,433,345). These rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

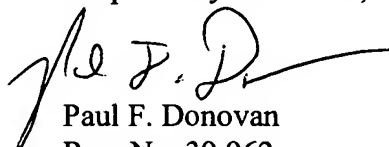
Without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by the cited references, independent claims 1, 4, 7, 17, and 22 have been amended to more clearly define what it is the Applicants consider to be their invention. An does not teach nor suggest all of the limitations now found in amended claims 1, 4, 7, 17, and 22. Thus, claims 1, 4, 7, 17, and 22 are patentable over An. Claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-16, 18-21, and 23-30 depend from one of claims 1, 4, 7, 17, and 22, and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

In regards to the recently discovered references cited in the IDS submitted concurrently with this Amendment, the claims as amended herein define over these new references, either taken alone, or in combination with the other art of record.

No new matter has been added by way of the amendments and remarks made herein. Reconsideration and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining issues that can be addressed and expedited by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,


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